

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
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 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2019

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Freezing temperatures, high winds, and deep snow were widespread throughout Montana for the month of February, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Topsoil moisture conditions were 86 percent adequate to surplus which is above last year's 69 percent. Subsoil moisture conditions are 78 percent adequate to surplus which is above last year's 57 percent. Reporters noted that heavy snow cover prevented them from confirming the condition of their winter wheat, but the below zero temperatures and high winds caused more winter freeze and wind damage. Winter freeze and wind damage to winter wheat remains high with 39 percent of reporters observing freeze and drought damage, and 29 percent reporting wind damage. Winter wheat snow coverage for the state is rated 81 percent good to excellent compared with 79 percent at this time last year. Winter wheat condition is rated 52 percent good to excellent, compared with 54 percent last year. Reporters in Northwestern areas noted the colder weather is causing calving and lambing issues as well as grazing issues. Grazing accessibility was limited with 48 percent of grazing lands reported as inaccessible or closed and 39 percent rated as difficult.

Note: The next monthly report will be released for March on Monday, March 25, 2019. The first weekly report will be released on Monday, April 1, 2019.

LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous report (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Cattle and calves				
Cows calved.....	4	NA	3	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	99	NA	100	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Ewes lambed.....	2	NA	2	NA
Receiving supplemental feed.....	100	NA	99	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Topsoil moisture				
Very short.....	2	NA	8	NA
Short.....	12	NA	23	NA
Adequat.....	81	NA	47	NA
Surplus.....	5	NA	22	NA
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	6	NA	14	NA
Short.....	16	NA	29	NA
Adequate.....	73	NA	45	NA
Surplus.....	5	NA	12	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous report	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Grazing accessibility				
Open.....	13	NA	6	NA
Difficult.....	39	NA	22	NA
Closed.....	48	NA	72	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	7	NA	NA	NA
Poor.....	15	NA	NA	NA
Fair.....	31	NA	NA	NA
Good.....	42	NA	NA	NA
Excellent.....	5	NA	NA	NA
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	--	NA	2	NA
Poor.....	2	NA	3	NA
Fair.....	46	NA	41	NA
Good.....	38	NA	46	NA
Excellent.....	14	NA	8	NA
Winter wheat – wind damage				
None.....	71	NA	85	NA
Light.....	15	NA	12	NA
Moderate.....	13	NA	3	NA
Heavy.....	1	NA	--	NA
Winter wheat – freeze and drought damage				
None.....	61	NA	85	NA
Light.....	21	NA	11	NA
Moderate.....	17	NA	3	NA
Heavy.....	1	NA	1	NA
Winter wheat – protectiveness of snow cover				
Very poor.....	--	NA	3	NA
Poor.....	3	NA	8	NA
Fair.....	16	NA	10	NA
Good.....	53	NA	34	NA
Excellent.....	28	NA	45	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

Notice: Please be advised, the Crop Progress report's weather data table has been discontinued for budget reasons. Please contact the NASS Mountain Regional Field Office at (720) 787-3150 with questions.